



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board

1101 E Tudor Rd, MS 121
Anchorage Alaska 99503



Forest Service

SUBSISTENCE FISHING

SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of **50 CFR Part 100.10 and .19**
36 CFR Part 242.10 and .19

Special Action No.: 3-KS-04-14 Issued at: Bethel, Alaska
June 10, 2014

Effective Date: June 11, 2014 12:01 a.m.

Expiration Date: June 30, 2014 11:59 p.m. Unless superseded by subsequent Special Action

EXPLANATION:

ALL KUSKOKWIM TRIBUTARIES WITHIN THE REFUGE BOUNDARIES

This Special Action opens salmon fishing with gillnets with no more than 6" mesh, 50 fathoms long, 45 meshes deep only for those Kuskokwim communities which have been issued Social and Cultural Harvest permits. A permit issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is required while fishing and must be in the possession of the individual designated fisher(s) selected by the communities; conditions of the permit must be followed. This fishery is an allowance in response to requests and formal proposals as discussed by tribal members, the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group, and the Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council during the late winter and spring, 2014.

REGULATION

50 CFR 100.27(e)(4)(ii) is amended to read:

50 CFR 100.27 (e)(4)(i) is modified to require a permit for the effective fishing dates above. A gillnet fishery by permit only will be allowed with gillnets less than 6" mesh, 50 fathoms long, 45 meshes deep by permit only, issued by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Fishermen must be in possession of a permit and abide by the permit conditions while fishing.

JUSTIFICATION

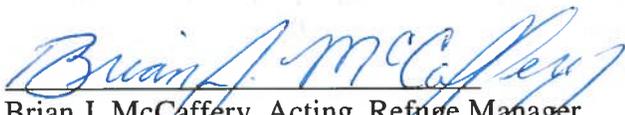
Biological

Since 2010, the Kuskokwim River has experienced poor king salmon returns and 2013 was the lowest return on record. The 2014 State of Alaska king salmon forecast is for a return of 94,000 fish (range of 71,000–117,000). The State of Alaska drainage-wide escapement goal is 65,000–120,000. If the 2014 return is within the forecast then there might be enough fish to meet escapement goals and provide for very limited king salmon subsistence harvest. The majority of escapement goals were not met in 2013 and all weir assessment projects had the lowest on record. Given consecutive years of low king salmon returns and non-achievement of escapement goals conservation measures are warranted.

The total number of permits issued and the number of Chinook salmon expected to be harvested during this time is small and calculated to be no more than 1000 Chinook salmon. This harvest should not adversely impact efforts to reach our management objective in the mid-range of the drainage-wide escapement goals.

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

By delegation to:


 Brian J. McCaffery, Acting Refuge Manager
 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

DISTRIBUTION:

Tim Towarak, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board
 Members, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council
 Gene Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, Subsistence Division, USFWS
 Stan Pruzenski, Special Agent in Charge, LE Division, USFWS
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